

Russian Government Proposes Extra \$10Bln to 'Stimulate' State Officials

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Anton Siluanov / Kremlin.ru

Russian civil servants could see a windfall of up to \$10 billion in the next three years under a budget proposal designed to “stimulate” government workers.

The potential spending increase comes at a sensitive time for President Vladimir Putin’s administration, which is pushing through an unpopular proposal to raise the population’s retirement age. State salaries have reportedly [jumped](#) since Putin announced his re-election bid late last year, with the average salary for federal civil servants being more than double that of the national average.

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The 2019-2021 draft budget proposed by the government sets aside an extra 630 billion rubles (\$9.5 billion) on “financial motivation” for state officials, [according](#) to the RBC news website.

The proposed sums for 2019 and 2020 are almost double the 200 billion rubles set in the existing budget law, RBC writes. A further 284.4 billion rubles is set aside as extra stimulus for bureaucrats in 2021 in the proposed plan, bringing the three-year total increase to 631.9 billion rubles.

Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said the “dismal situation with wages in regional offices” warranted the pay rise.

“A federal-level increase in material stimulus is also planned starting in 2020,” he [told](#) reporters after a cabinet meeting on Thursday.

The Economic Development Ministry, Finance Ministry and Labor Ministry have until the end of 2018 to draft the civil servant wage hike legislation, RBC reports.

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